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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 3

March 28, 1942

GEORGIA (March 20).--Each Extension specialist given group of 3 to 5 counties which they will contact throughout the year on Food-for-Victory Program and agricultural program planning. Machinery for conducting work in counties organized and 1942 programs about completed. Many counties have carried programs to communities for discussion and adoption.

Cooperated with War Board agencies in series group peanut meetings. County agents organizing cooperative poultry and egg sales; livestock sales of cattle and hogs well under way; Victory Garden short courses held over State; leadership-training meetings conducted for home demonstration club women and farm women; nutrition classes for training volunteers in nutrition and canteen work held in cooperation with Citizens Defense Committee, Red Cross, and State Nutrition Committee; 95 white and Negro home demonstration agents qualified to teach standard nutrition and canteen courses. Extension workers organizing and conducting classes in first aid and home nursing. Machine and kitchen clinics on care and repair home equipment conducted in many counties. Assisting War Board in preparation Food-for-Victory and nutrition display for store windows, school buildings, etc.

Extension workers met with Georgia Bankers' Association for discussion Food-for-Victory Program in detail. Farm labor and tenure committees organized in all counties are subcommittees County Program Planning Committees. Large amount scrap metal collected, especially by 4-H Club members. One county reports 192,468 pounds. Five special extension workers have been maintained on relocation project Union and Towns counties necessitated by construction TVA dams. 300 farm families relocated, agents will assist them to new locations.

MISSISSIPPI (March 16).--Organization of Alcorn County for attainment war production goals typical of procedure throughout State. 135 neighborhood leaders called into meetings in county and every farm family grouped under these leaders. Families signed pledges to meet goals in production milk, eggs, hogs, soybeans for oil, home gardens. In Coahoma County a joint meeting of Coordinating Council and USDA War Board held followed by meeting of farm leaders, and meeting of leaders from home demonstration clubs, 4-H leaders, representatives from WPA school lunch project, Health Department, FSA, USDA War Board, Civilian Defense Board, Merchants' Committee, and Negro County Council at which goals were set. Follow-up community meetings to be held. Representatives of Extension, AAA, FSA, SCS, County Farm Bureau, vocational workers, and WPA, held

meetings at each school in Tippah County, the county superintendent declaring holiday at each school when meeting held, instructing school bus drivers to bring farmers and their wives to school and leave children at home on day of meeting. At these meetings farmers agreed to meet production goals; gardens were planned, and crop insurance explained.

State-wide meeting held to instruct Negro agents and vocational teachers and other Negro leaders in the Food-for-Freedom program. Agreed organize local leadership for all Negro farm families.

NEBRASKA (March 16).--Reports indicate 6,535 rural Victory leaders selected, also 1,347 in smaller towns. Expect 10,000 leaders at work when organization completed. 300 leader-training meetings held, attended by 4,497; Victory Garden pledge signing just starting with 4,000 enrolled.

Food for Victory discussed at 161 other meetings, attendance 5,752. Meetings participated in by AAA, War Board, CSC, FSA, Cooperative Marketing Associations, Civic Clubs, Garden Clubs, Public Schools, Parent-Teachers Associations, Farm Loan Associations, Vocational Agriculture, 4-H Clubs, Civilian Defense, and Women's Project Clubs.

Supplementing Food-for-Victory programs are 793 4-H Clubs and 451 pasture-forage-livestock cooperators organized to date. Women's project groups are demonstrating sugar savers and substitutes, stressing good nutrition through gardens, and demonstrating safety work clothes for women, giving directions for obtaining patterns.

Report on labor survey conducted in cooperation with AAA, BAE, and AMS prepared and sent to counties. Few counties report shortage of farm labor interfered some with getting best Victory leaders.

NEW HAMPSHIRE (March 18).--County extension agents met on March 5 to discuss organization on neighborhood basis, travel reduction, leadership training, supplies, and labor situation. Will plan meetings on neighborhood basis to enable farmers to "walk in," save tires. More efficient use of telephone, mails, radio, newspapers, films, slides and posters to reach rural people with timely, accurate information planned. Agents using trains more, some using bicycles for local travel and others more joint travel.

Following Victory Garden Day at the University, training meetings for community garden chairmen under way. Community meetings planned for Garden Week, March 23-28.

4-H Victory Volunteers program being launched. Emergency projects include fire prevention; Victory Gardens; safety and health, including nutrition; assisting in civilian defense activities. Boy Scouts will conduct their garden activities through the 4-H Victory Volunteers.

Meetings held in counties at which extension forester explained State-wide fuel-wood production campaign. Community chairman distributing questionnaires to determine expected fuel needs next winter and availability of labor for wood chopping. "Wood-chopping bees" held in one county.

Extension economist has prepared "Yardstick for Farm and Labor Efficiency" by use of which farmer will be able to determine number of man-days the operations of his farm will require and thus be able to place specific requests for labor with employment service.

NEW YORK (March 19).--Appointed 17 committees composed of members extension staff, and some members research and teaching staffs at colleges as follows: Food production, marketing, Victory Gardens, farm machinery, farm labor, better living on the farm, soil conservation, nutrition, health, fire prevention, discussion, recreation for cities and larger villages, publications, research, reports, and finance.

Each committee to make recommendations, see that programs tie in with those of other groups and agencies. Chairmen and secretaries of the committees make up Extension War Council which meets weekly with Extension director.

At county level agricultural agent responsible for food production, farm machinery, farm labor, soil conservation programs; home agent responsible for nutrition, health, discussion; 4-H Club agent responsible for Victory Garden program and jointly with home agent for better living for the farm and recreation programs.

Extension Wartime Council being organized each rural county, composed of directors of County Farm and Home Bureau and 4-H Club association and few other active and qualified persons; community Extension Wartime Councils organized in some communities. Townships and communities divided into small groups with man and woman local leaders called "Extension Minutemen" in charge each group. Chief job of minutemen to give out timely information furnished by Extension Service and gather important needed facts.

Land use planning redirected toward solving problems related directly to war effort. Extension director has recommended to County Land Use Committees emphasis on planning phases of five problems: (1) Farm labor, (2) production goals, (3) public problems, (4) social problems, (5) post-war problems.

RHODE ISLAND (March 18).--Victory gardens major agricultural activity at present. County extension workers in southern part State making extensive drives for rural gardeners. Supervisor in vocational agriculture also aiding.

Scrap-iron collection goes on and survey made of auto graveyards for scrap.

Assisted in compiling data for U. S. Employment Service on farm labor; discussed poultry outlook situation at poultry schools; organized data for commodity committee meetings; and conferred with Rhode Island and Connecticut authorities on consolidating milk deliveries.

Local nutrition committees being organized, assisting organizing nutrition Red Cross classes.

SOUTH CAROLINA (March 21).--Special emphasis placed on Better Farm Living Program. Extension, working with volunteer local leaders, organized work in each county and community. Result of work with 17,849 farm families shows following percentage increases in production food crops and animals in 1941: Corn 86; gardens 71.9; sweetpotatoes 61.6; Irish potatoes 62.3; sirup 48.6; hogs to kill 94.8; milk cows 93; poultry 68.6.

Intensive program under way to increase quality cured hay crops; annual grazing program developed. Coordinated action of Federal and State agencies in development evaporated milk plants. One evaporated-milk plant already established. Two schools will be set up for technicians.

Extension marketing program enlarged to render more effective service to farmers, working in close cooperation with army buyers in locating produce and furnishing inspection for items required.

County and community meetings held for presentation farm-machinery and repair program. 10,000 farmers attending urged to check machinery and order repair parts.

Series county meetings held for discussion peanut production, with indications 112,000-acre goals will be met.

SOUTH DAKOTA (March 16).--Meetings sponsored by County War Boards held in every community at which county and home demonstration agents assumed responsibility for discussion county garden program, nutrition, price situation, and poultry management. Large attendance.

Plans made for meeting State War Board with supervisory staffs Extension, FSA, AAA, SCS, Forest Service, to discuss operation and report procedure County War Boards. County agent board secretary in 75 percent of counties.

Agricultural prices and livestock situation discussed at 6 district conferences extension agents. Summary of discussion furnished agents to assist them similar discussion community meetings.

Nutrition refresher course for home economists held with 44 attending. Sixteen clothing meetings held in 15 counties; several sewing-machine clinics held.

Plan worked out by Director of Prairie States Forestry Project and Extension for distribution approximately 1,750,000 surplus trees to 4-H Club members in counties in which PSFP operating, for hedge plantings for garden protection, under supervision county extension agents. Mimeographed circular of planting instructions prepared by 4-H Club staff.

Extension editor will furnish "weekly farm news review" for weeklies, and material for farm column of dailies. Material from USDA War Board and USDA agencies will be routed through extension editor for use in this review. Daily column service started after conference with representatives 9/10 daily circulation in State.

WYOMING (March 16).--Giving major attention to promotion Victory Gardens; sheep culling for greater wool production; increased egg production and growing chicks; family food supply and adequate low-cost meals.

In 11 counties not served by Government Employment Office, county agents lending facilities their offices for this purpose. Simple registration system will be set up for enrollment workers and listing farmers and ranchmen who need help, thus bringing laborers and employers together.

Reports from counties indicate scrap-iron collection going forward. Some counties making county trucks available for hauling scrap to dealers, proceeds of sale going to Red Cross. Workers assisting in survey auto graveyards. Machinery repair campaign gathering momentum and farmers cooperating in fine way. Surveys made by county agents of grain elevator storage in their counties. Every 4-H Club will hold mobilization meeting during 4-H Club Mobilization Week (April 5-11). Clubs not yet organized to hold organization meetings; organized clubs enroll new members, decide on Victory activities to be carried on.

